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In re Patent Application of:

FLICK

Serial No. 10/626,969

Filing Date: JULY 25, 2003

REMARKS

The Examiner is thanked for his careful examination of the present application. For the reasons presented below, it is submitted that the claims are patentable over the prior art.

I. The Claims Are Patentable

The Examiner rejected independent Claims 1, 12, 20, 25, 30 and 37 over the combination of Hwang and Suman et al. or Nykerk, and further in view of Boreham et al. On page 4 of the Final Office Action, the Examiner argues that Suman et al. discloses a data communications bus extending throughout the vehicle, as the data bus communicates between a plural of vehicle systems 101-110 and a controller 77. However, the data bus connects to the inputs 101-110 and microcontroller 77 on a driver circuit 75, the driver circuit confined within a housing 63 attached to the vehicle roof 61 (See FIG. 6A, 6B; Col. 4, lines 52-54; Col. 21-23). Thus, the data bus does not extend throughout the vehicle and carry data and address information, as recited in the claimed invention.

Also on page 4 of the Final Action, the Examiner similarly argues that Nykerk discloses a data communications bus extending throughout the vehicle, in teaching a vehicle processor and alarm system communicating over the data bus 64. However, the data bus 64 of Nykerk is disclosed within a self-contained alarm system 55, containing the vehicle processor 60 (See FIG. 4; Col. 9, lines 59-63). Thus, the data bus 64 does not extend throughout the vehicle and carry data and address

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information. Thus, Suman et al. and Nykerk specifically teach away from a data communications bus extending throughout the vehicle and carrying data and address information, and thus there is no proper suggestion or motivation to combine either reference with Boreham et al. as the Examiner proposes.

The Examiner argues on pages 4-5 of the Final Office Action that it would have been obvious to connect a prealarm warning as disclosed in Hwang over a data bus as suggested by Nykerk or Suman et al. As previously submitted in Applicant's prior Response, there is no motivation to selectively discard the hardwire connections of Hwang and replace them with a data bus as suggested by Nykerk or Suman et al. In particular, the multiple-parallel line structure of the Suman et al. data bus is structurally equivalent to the hardwire connection structure of Hwang, and thus one of skill in the art would be discouraged from making the suggested Hwang/Suman et al. combination. Moreover, as discussed above, Nykerk expressly teaches a confined data bus within an alarm, and thus one of ordinary skill in the art would be taught away from using such a confined data bus to replace the Hwang hardwire connections, particularly those connections external to the alarm.

Accordingly, Applicant recognizes that by selectively assembling disjoint bits and pieces of the prior art -- in this instance with two different three-way combinations -- the Examiner can cobble together the recited elements of the claimed invention. However, as the Examiner is aware, there must be some proper motivation in the prior art for such selective combinations. The primary reference, Hwang, discloses hardwired connections. Hwang is then

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selectively modified to throw out the hardwired connections and replace those with a confined data bus based upon Suman et al. or Nykerk, despite the fact that each data bus would fail to encompass such hardwire connections. One of ordinary skill in the art is still not yet done, now he must junk the multi-wire confined data bus of Suman et al. or Nykerk and substitute a more extensive data bus carrying address and data based upon Boreham et al.

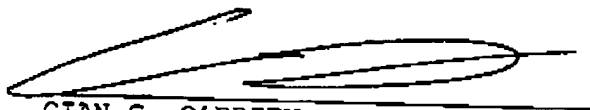
It is respectfully submitted that the Examiner's motivation for the selective combination of references impermissibly comes from Applicant's own specification, rather than from some proper teaching in the prior art. Thus, independent Claims 1, 12, 20, 25, 30 and 37 are patentable over the prior art. Their respective dependent claims, which recite yet further distinguishing features, are also patentable over the prior art and require no further discussion herein.

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CONCLUSION

In view of the arguments presented above, it is submitted that all of the claims are patentable. Accordingly, a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested in due course. Should any minor informalities need to be addressed, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



CIAN G. O'BRIEN
Reg. No. 55,792
Allen, Dyer, Doppelt, Milbrath
& Gilchrist, P.A.
255 S. Orange Avenue, Suite 1401
Post Office Box 3791
Orlando, Florida 32802
407-841-2330
407-841-2343 fax
Agent for Applicants

CERTIFICATE OF FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION

I HEREBY CERTIFY that the foregoing correspondence has been forwarded via facsimile number 571-273-8300 to the Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 this 2nd day of May, 2006.

